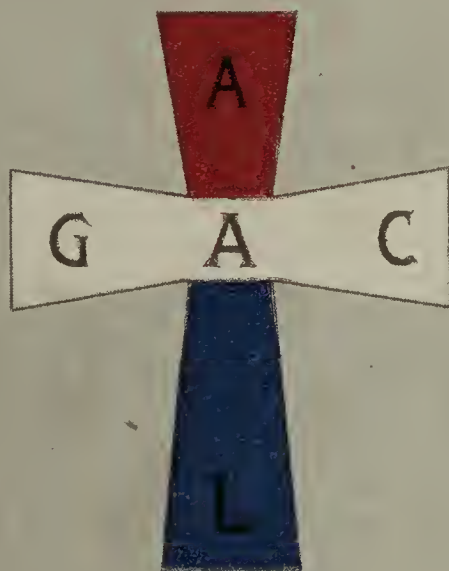


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THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS



A NEW REFORMATION REQUIRED





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THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF
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A NEW REFORMATION REQUIRED.

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS.

THE writer has long been impressed by the too evident spiritual lethargy of the rank and file of the Christian Church. He has long been convinced of the imperative necessity for A NEW REFORMATION that shall break down present barriers of deadly formalism and chilling conventionality; that shall arouse the Church of Christ to active pioneer efforts, in reaching the vast majority of the people, who are to-day unreached by the saving influence of the proclaimed Gospel of Jesus Christ. Carefully compiled statistics reveal a state of spiritual and evangelistic torpor in the Church, that all true disciples of Him "who spake as never man spake," must view with alarm. Eminent authorities quite generally agree that a net annual increase of only about five per cent. is now being added to the Evangelical Church of Christ in America!

Four hundred churches in a New England State report but FOUR HUNDRED ADDITIONS the year past; and this the leading denomination in the State! Rev. Wm. De Witt Hyde, President of Bowdoin College in Maine, stated in an article published in the *Forum* some months since, entitled "Impending Paganism in New England," that "in one county in Maine, out of 6,987 families, 4,850 do not attend church, and in the combined statistics of fifteen (15) counties containing 133,445 families, 67,842 are non-churchgoers. This shows a proportion of over 50 per cent. who never attend religious worship." It also shows a state of evangelistic inefficiency in the Churches that is a disgrace to the cause of Christ. Rev. Dr. Josiah

Strong, General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, states in his great book "The New Era," that "during the year 1891, in a large and influential denomination, it took, on the average, fourteen church members to win a single convert from the world; in another it took seventeen and in another twenty-two.

"These three denominations aggregate four and a half millions of members; and, striking the average of all, it took about twenty (19.8) of these Christians twelve months to make one convert!" Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Pierson states in his grand book on "Evangelistic Work," that "those who have made a study of the matter, taking a survey of the whole era of Protestant and Evangelical Christendom, and the average accessions by conversion for the half century past, tell us that the increase is about seven converts yearly to every one hundred Church members. If this be true—and it tallies with such conclusions as we have been able to make from a tolerably broad induction from facts—we are making such slow progress toward the world's evangelization (then allowing for the three per cent. annual loss in membership by death) that we are gaining from the world only about four new converts a year for every one hundred professed disciples!

"At such a rate, even had we unlimited time for the work, it would take half a millenium (500) of years for the thirty millions of Protestant Christians to reach the half of the race now without the gospel. The melancholy fact is that the population of the world is more rapid in its increase and displacement than the Church is in its evangelizing march!"

Evidences of the evangelistic inefficiency of the Christian Church are to be found on every hand. Over 50 per cent. of the country's population is non-churchgoing, and no organized effective effort is now being made to reach it. This enormous sea of humanity is daily drifting down to eternal destruction, and the greater number of professing Christians let the drift go on, and content themselves with a selfish, cold type of Christian life that works on the "every man for himself" plan, and that passes the sinner by "on the other side." True Christianity is essentially non-selfish, while the prevalent religion of most Christians to-day is largely one of complacent conservatism, of almost pure selfishness, and as sure as God's Word is "sure and steadfast" such religion is of man alone; it is not of Christ! The spiritual lethargy of the times is beyond all calculation. If there ever was need for a mighty reformation in the Church of God, such a need exists now. The first bugle blast to be blown must be on THE COMMON PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS!

The average Christian believes, and has been largely taught to believe, that there has been granted a special dispensation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ TO ORDAINED MINISTERS ONLY, and therefore believes the subject does not concern him at all. Nothing could be more foreign to the spirit and teachings of the New Testament than such a belief. "The Spirit and the Bride say come, AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY COME," are the very words of the inspired record, and they mean just what they say, and they say that EVERY BELIEVER has A RIGHT to proclaim the Gospel of Christ; and to offer his testimony to the saving power of Jesus

Christ; and such service is not only A RIGHT, BUT A GOD-COMMANDED DUTY, and "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." The greatest sin of the Christian world to-day is disobedience and neglect of this very command. These statements are not made with any intention of lowering the dignity or importance of the grand office of the Ordained Christian Ministry; but if they are heeded, and the suggestions contained in this paper are acted upon, the Ordained Christian Ministry will multiply its influence many fold; for with the active personal co-operation of their members in evangelistic work, the pastors of our Churches will have greater occasion for rejoicing and thanksgiving than for any other reason.

As previously suggested, no organized effective effort is now being made by the Christian Church to reach the unchurched millions for Christ. The Word of God has "been made of non-effect" through and by sheer neglect of one of its greatest teachings; and we feel well assured that all true Christians will join with us when we say THE HOUR HAS COME WHEN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH MUST AWAKE TO ITS HIGH RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHRIST JESUS! "God wills it!" The heroic efforts of a comparatively few of "God's own," in every community, have been and are now being constantly directed along the lines laid down by Christ; but nothing will answer for nor take the place of a UNIVERSAL PROCLAMATION of God's blessed Gospel BY THE UNIVERSAL Church of God, in its individual members. If the Church expects the world IS COMING TO HER, for salvation, she is bound to be fearfully disappointed. If Christ could have saved the world without coming down to earth, "to seek

and to save the lost " and to die on Calvary, He probably would have accomplished the work the easier way. He who commanded ALL His disciples to "go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," practiced what he preached; as the history of His constant journeyings, sufferings and labors throughout the land of Palestine clearly shows. The curse of evangelistic drought that afflicts the Church to-day is the direct and legitimate result of ignoring Christ's last and greatest commandment. The Gospel of Jesus Christ must be proclaimed to all who are in sin, by all who believe, and when that is UNIVERSALLY DONE, AND THEN ONLY, WILL THE CHURCH FULFILL HER GOD-COMMANDED MISSION! Then instead of a miserly five per cent. annual increase in a dead membership, an increase of at least thirty fold or three thousand per cent. will be realized in a Church ablaze with pentecostal fire; as on the day of Pentecost, when THE WHOLE Church proclaimed the Gospel and the Divine promise of phenomenal results was fully realized. A trumpet blast from beyond the skies vibrates throughout the world to-day, calling the universal church of God to such a mighty forward evangelistic movement as only God's hosts can accomplish when they are fully true to their high calling in Christ Jesus! Will you, oh Christian believer, fail to respond, or will you join the triumphant army of God's redeemed that is now about to inaugurate the grandest, greatest and most glorious campaign for God the world has ever seen? Will you continue to have a name to live, but still be dead to Heaven's high call, or will you join that great company whom no man can number, and WHOSE CHIEF CALLING IN LIFE is to spread the Gospel proclamation to a dying world,

and finally share in their glorious reward, when at last with "palms of victory and crowns of glory" they shall meet their Imperial Master, whom they have so nobly served, and from His lovely lips hear that promised welcome, "Come ye, blessed of my Father, and inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world," which has been promised ONLY to those who DO His will.

"We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time;
In an age on ages telling;
To be living is sublime!
Oh, let all the soul within you,
For the truth's sake go abroad:
Oh, let every nerve and sinew,
Tell on ages, tell for God!"

That the present time is suggestive and propitious for a widespread, universal revival of spiritual interest and general evangelistic activity in the Christian Church is very evident to close and thoughtful observers, and yet no broad, comprehensive plan or movement has been proposed for arousing the dormant energies, the enthusiasm and evangelistic activities of the great mass of evangelical Church members. A careful survey of the field, a thorough consideration of the objects to be attained, and of the work to be accomplished, has led to the proposal of the plan that is involved in the organization and proposed work of THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS. Any movement that involved the military idea has from time immemorial immediately and instinctively commanded the admiration, enthusiasm and intense interest of men, women and children. That God Himself fully appreciates and approves of this fact is clearly shown

in many passages of Scripture, where the militant feature appears. The Christian believer is repeatedly referred to as a soldier. Christ stated shortly before His crucifixion, that it was within His power to summon more than TWELVE LEGIONS of angels to His assistance. Thus, in using the Roman military term "legion," Christ indicated the fact that the hosts of Heaven were considered as A GREAT ARMY OF CELESTIAL SOLDIERS. Indeed it would seem hardly necessary to refer further to the Scriptures to support the proposition. The recent extraordinary development and wonderful multiplication of semi-military patriotic societies is also corroborative of the instinctive character of that natural admiration of things warlike and military that dwells in every human heart to a greater or less degree, and proves the power and influence of the fact upon the minds of men.

There are several very good reasons for the existence of this spirit of interest in military affairs; it represents that power, that, by the blessing of Heaven, brought independence to our glorious country; preserved the Union and freed the slave. It represents the greatest life work of many of our illustrious ancestors in this and foreign lands. It appeals to every patriotic sentiment and to every holy emotion of patriotic interest. It represents the very highest idea of complete organization and organized efficiency, and the very highest ideal of human power.

In view of the foregoing facts, it will doubtless be conceded that if the military idea can be practically utilized in the Church of Christ for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, it can be made to exert a tremendous and incalculable influence for good.

The application of the idea in the organization and work of the Salvation Army, while crude and objectionable to many on account of its arbitrary discipline, has effected a perfect revolution in the field of labor, outside the Churches, which the Army occupies.

The following description of the proposed plan and work of THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS is suggestive of the possibilities of the application of the semi-military idea in regular church work, and as it has been arranged with special consideration of the objections offered to organizations in the Church, and with a view of filling an almost entirely unoccupied field, the writer trusts it may receive some favorable consideration from thoughtful and earnest brethren in the Lord.

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

[T is proposed to effect such an organization as will most completely meet the requirements of the case; in order to thoroughly cover the ground, the following is presented for the consideration of the reader:

A League Company of either men or women, or both, as may be desired, to be organized in each Evangelical Church; each League Company to be directed in its work by a President-Captain—preferably the pastor of the Church, or some one nominated by him—assisted by an Executive Staff consisting of a First and Second Vice-President-Lieutenant, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Each two, and not more than ten, Companies, may form a Regiment; each Regiment to be directed in its work by a President-Colonel, assisted by an Executive Staff consisting of a Vice-President-Major and the President-Captains of all the League Companies, together with a Secretary and a Treasurer.

It shall be the duty of each Regiment to plan and generally direct all work that may be done outside of the Church, and to engage in and direct such interdenominational work in the Churches as may be deemed expedient and desirable.

The organization, equipment and training of a sufficient number of members to form a brass band in each Regiment is earnestly advised.

The Regiments of each division or State to form a Brigade; each Brigade to be directed in its work by a President-General, assisted by an Executive Staff consisting of a Vice-President-Adjutant-General, the President-Colonels of all the Regiments, and a Secretary and Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Brigade, through its executive officers, to generally enterprize and promote the work of the League throughout the division or State, and generally to assist the National League in its larger work of organizing and directing the entire movement. The Brigades of all divisions and States to be members of the National American League of the Grand Army of the Cross.

The National League to be directed in its work of generally organizing, promoting and supervising the organization by a President-Commander-in-Chief, assisted by an Executive Staff consisting of a Vice-President-Chief-of-Staff, the President-Generals of all the Brigades, a Secretary-General, a Treasurer-General, and such other officers as the exigencies of the work may require.

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

THIS organization shall be called "THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS," in league with all Local, State, National and other Leagues of the Grand Army of the Cross.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The object of the League shall be to promote a revival of the spirit, work and general evangelistic enterprise of primitive Christianity. The League shall aim to arouse the dormant energies and to resurrect the buried talents of the great number of professing Christians who are now practically dead unto good works; and it shall engage in all reforms which are vital in the development of the ideal manliness which is typified in the life and saving power of Jesus Christ. It shall carry on its work in accord with the following PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES:

We believe in the old Bible—the Sword of the Spirit—from cover to cover, and we will always and everywhere discountenance any attack upon, or disrespect for, its text or teachings.

We believe all Christian believers are required, according to the Scriptures (Revelations 22:17; Mark 16:15 and Acts 1:8), to engage in active personal work with the unsaved.

Therefore, we believe we are called of God to go into all the world and preach (or proclaim) the Gospel to every creature.

We believe that only by concerted, systematic, organized effort along certain definite lines can the Christian world be definitely and generally aroused on the subjects of interest to this League.

Therefore, with a sincere, heartfelt and prayerful desire to take part in the great work of arousing the Church and the world to a due sense of their responsibilities, opportunities and privileges in Jesus Christ, we

DO HEREBY ASSOCIATE OURSELVES together in a League Company of the American League of the Grand Army of the Cross for the purposes outlined in this PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES, and the prosecution of such other work as may be enterprised by the organization.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of this League Company is purely voluntary, but a thorough adherence to its Rules and Regulations is expected and required of its members while they continue as such. Any Christian believer who is in good and regular standing in any Evangelical Church, and who will cheerfully subscribe to our Declaration of Principles, sign our Constitution and Pledge, and agree to be bound and governed thereby, may become a member of this League Company by enlisting as a soldier in the Grand Army of the Cross.

Persons converted in the work of the League may become members of the organization, but they must in every case join some Evangelical Church of their choice within two months thereafter.

Each member must be furnished with an enlistment certificate signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the President-Captain, and a correct list

of the members and their addresses must be forwarded monthly by the League Company Secretary to the Secretary-General of the National League.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers of this League Company shall be a President-Captain, a First Vice-President-Lieutenant, a Second Vice-President-Lieutenant, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be required to meet the demands of the work.

ARTICLE V.—DIRECTION OF THE WORK.

The officers and members of the League Company shall be governed and directed in the regular work of the organization by the President-Captain, and in his absence by the First or Second Vice-President-Lieutenants, or whoever they may depute to represent them when they are absent.

ARTICLE VI.—PLEDGE.

The PLEDGE or AGREEMENT of this League Company of the Grand Army of the Cross, shall be as follows :

Realizing the imperative need of an organized effort on the part of all Christians to be active and efficient "Soldiers of the Cross," in the work of arousing the Church to a due sense of the importance of her neglected responsibilities to a dying world, and in REACHING and leading the unsaved to the "great Captain of our Salvation,"

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, sincerely believing I am called of God to engage in such an effort, DO HEREBY ENLIST AS AN ACTIVE AND OBEDIENT SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST in this League Company of THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS; and in the presence and with the help of Almighty God and

my comrades, do hereby bind myself and agree to discharge to the best of my ability, under the direction of the proper officers of this League Company, the following duties :

I will devote such portion of my time as may be consistent with other duties to THE DIRECT WORK OF WITNESSING for my great Captain Jesus Christ, wherever I go, and especially by public testimony for Him, in every meeting I may attend, when opportunity is afforded ; and I will constantly seek to secure recruits for the Grand Army of the Cross, both in the Church and in the world.

I will pray each day "evening, morning and at noon," for the highest possible success of this League, and for the arousement of the whole Church of God to more efficient and enthusiastic service.

I will earnestly support, proclaim, defend and daily read the text and study the teachings of the HOLY BIBLE, "the Sword of the Spirit," the very WORD OF GOD, and I will endeavor to constantly keep in my personal possession at least a copy of the New Testament.

I will constantly strive to realize the highest standard of Christian experience as taught by the Son of God.

I will always endeavor to promote, encourage and actively engage in all the work enterprised by this League, and my Church, and give according to my ability to advance the work of Christ.

I will in no event allow my work in connection with this League Company to seriously interfere with my duties and responsibilities to my Church, but I will endeavor to be more useful and efficient in my Church than ever before.

ARTICLE VII.—BADGE.

Each member of the League shall wear at all times the “red, white and blue” cross of the AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS.

This badge is copyrighted and furnished only by the National League. No other badge or charm representing the order shall be worn by members.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE I.—PRESIDENT-CAPTAIN.

The President-Captain, or in his absence, one of the Vice-President-Lieutenants, shall preside at all meetings of the League Company.

ARTICLE II.—SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall keep the roll call, and the record of all meetings. He shall give notice of meetings and report quarterly all new officers and members to the Secretary-General of the National League.

ARTICLE III.—TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the League Company, subject to the direction of the President-Captain. He shall report to the League Company at its business councils, and to any member of the League Company when so requested.

ARTICLE IV.—EXECUTIVE STAFF.

The Executive Staff shall advise with the President-Captain, and shall carry into effect such plans as may be adopted; shall recommend such plans or modifications of plans as their own study and experience may suggest, and shall assist the President-Captain in the prosecution of the work in every way.

ARTICLE V.—COUNCIL.

There shall be an annual Council for the election of officers on the second Monday in the month of May.

ARTICLE VI.—DETACHMENTS OR COMMITTEES.

Such DETACHMENTS or COMMITTEES as may be necessary for the prosecution of special work shall be appointed by the President-Captain.

ARTICLE VII.

These Rules and Regulations may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any duly called Council of the League Company, but no amendment may be effected that is not first submitted to and does not meet with the approval of the National League.

THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEAGUE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS.

PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

GENERAL EXPLANATION.

[T is proposed that all the evangelical pastors and leading Christian laymen of a given place be consulted in regard to the organization, objects and work of the League, and if, after a complete explanation has been given, two or more (preferably all the evangelical Churches in a place should unite in the movement) pastors and laymen agree to invite the inauguration of the League and its work, the National organization will detail a corps of officers to visit the place, and assist in the organization of the League Companies and Regiment; and they will carry on a vigorous campaign for a week or ten days, in the evangelization of the community, under the plans and system adopted by the National League for the successful prosecution of the work.

DETAILED EXPLANATION.

When the evangelical pastors of any given place invite the National League to inaugurate the movement in their Churches and community, a comprehensive system of meetings should be appointed to enable the National officers to first reach the Church members in their respective Churches, or at a central point, and to explain to them the character of the organization, and the plan of work proposed to be accomplished. League Companies and a League Regiment can then be immediately organized, and the work commenced.

The town, city, village or borough should then be divided into districts of such size as to facilitate the work of house to house visitation, to be done by detachments or committees of two members each (of the League Regiment). Each canvassing detachment should be furnished with the National League's Standard Enrollment Book. These books provide for the entry of names, addresses, reported religious condition, and Church preference of the persons visited.

When it is deemed wise and expedient a few words of prayer may be offered at the houses visited, and in all cases a hearty invitation to the meetings of the League should be given.

After the League Companies and Regiment have been organized, public meetings should then be held to reach and evangelize the unsaved. These meetings should be extensively advertised, both in the Churches and local newspapers, and public interest should be excited and sustained by the daily or weekly publication of accounts of the meetings held, including names of speakers, the addresses made, and the results accomplished. THE SECRETARY OF THE LEAGUE REGIMENT should attend to this work.

The meetings will be conducted in accordance with the plans of the League, in an enthusiastic, spiritual and zealous manner. The use of a properly constituted, well trained and well-conducted brass band or orchestra is especially recommended.

The military idea will be largely availed of in these meetings. The unsaved will be earnestly and lovingly entreated and invited to give their hearts to God, and to enlist in the League of the Grand Army of the Cross. The taking up the Cross of

Christ for Christian life and warfare will be strikingly symbolized in the presentation of the Cross Badge to each of those who enlist in the Grand Army of the Cross at the close of each service.

One of the most desirable and valuable features of the movement will be the detailing of each new soldier FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE in and out of the meetings.

A collection of BATTLE HYMNS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE CROSS will be used in all the meetings.

A thorough enrollment of all persons who are reached in the work WILL BE MADE BY THE SECRETARIES of the LEAGUE COMPANIES under direction of the SECRETARY OF THE LEAGUE REGIMENT.

VOLLEY TESTIMONY, ARMY PRAYER and BATTLE HYMN meetings, and other meetings of an interesting, novel and profitable character will be carried on as a part of the campaign.

It will be the aim and endeavor of the National League to encourage and sustain the prosecution of an annual campaign of from one week to ten days in each place where the movement may be established. Thus a new evangelistic force and organization will be introduced and sustained in all places where the League gains a foothold, that will undoubtedly lead to the salvation of a vast multitude of precious souls; the radical awakening of the rank and file of the Church to a due sense of their responsibilities and duties as "Soldiers of the Cross," and their active participation in the great work of the world's salvation; and to such an extraordinary accession to Church membership as the spirit and work of the League will ensure. Other plans are now being made for the successful introduction and operation of the American League of the Grand

Army of the Cross in localities and Churches requiring different arrangements than those suggested. More complete and detailed information will be cheerfully furnished to all who may be interested.

All correspondence relating to the American League of the Grand Army of the Cross may be addressed to

WILLIAM P. HALL,
GREENWICH, CONN.

